(i) To assess in consultation with State Governments, the future development of existing and new Minor Ports by the respective Maritime States either directly or through captive users and private participation.

(ii) To consider the adequacy of existing legal framework and statutory/ legal clearances required for such development and recommend any changes/amedments required to provide conducive legal regime for such development.

(iii) To consider formulation of a Master Plan/Perspective Plan for development of minor ports in the country.

(iv) To monitor the development of minor ports, captive ports and private ports in the Maritime States with a view to ensure their integrated developoment with Major Ports.

(v) To assess the requirements of other infrastructure requirements like roads/ rail/IWT and make suitable recommendations to the concerned Ministries.

The Committee would meet atleast once in six months and recommendations would be advisory.

The Committee may co-opt the services of any officer/expert as it deems fit.

Sale of Additional land by NTC Mills in Maharashtra

1685. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had discussions with Maharashtra State Government officials in early June, 1996, regarding sale of additional land owned by the sick mills of NTC in Mumbai and rest of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, details of the discussions; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken for rehabilitation of the Mill workers of these Mills who have lost their jobs as a result of retrenchment or closure of the mills?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) In a meeting held by the Hon'ble Speaker of the Lok Sabha on 15th May 1997, it was decided that a committee would meet the Chief Minister of Maharashtra to press the matter regarding clearance of the State Government for sale of surplus land of NTC mills located in Maharashtra. The Committee consisted of Minister of Textiles and four Members of Parliament namely Shri Ram Naik, Shri Madhukar Sarpotdar, Shri Sriballav Panigrahi and Shri Basu Dev Acharya. Discussions were held by the Committee Members with the Chief Minister of Maharashtra on 7.6.97 and it was impressed upon him the urgency for granting clearance for sale of land. Subsequently a meeting was held between Secretary (Textiles), Government of India and Chief Secretary, Govt. of Maharashtra. The Chief Minister of Maharashtra assured that his Government would take a decision at the earliest. However, the clearance of the State Government is still awaited.

(c) Excepting Ajudhia Textile Mills of NTC (DP&R) Ltd., there has been no closure of any NTC mill in the country leading to retrenchment of employees. The Ajudhia Textile Mill situated in Delhi was closed and enhanced compensation paid to its employees as per the orders of Supreme Court.

Wool Production in Punjab

1686. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the share of Punjab and Uttar Pradesh in the country's total wool production;

(b) the details of the performance of Punjab's woollen industry during the last three years;

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to increase the production of woollen industry in the State;

(d) the details of the assistance being provided by the Government during the last three years; and

(e) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R. L. JALAPPA): (a) The share of wool production in Punjab and Uttar Pradesh in the country's total wool production is approximately 2.8% and 4.84% respectively.

(b) Details of Statewise production of the woollen industry is not readily available. However, as per the record of the Textile Commissioner's Office, approximately 30% of the installed capacity of woollen units of the country is in the State of Punjab. In the area of exports about 90% of exports of woollen knitwear, 60% of woollen shawls and scarves and 30% of woollen blankets of the total exports from India takes place from Punjab as per data compiled by the Wool and Woollens Export Promotion Council.

(c) The Government has taken a number of steps for the development of the woollen sector in Punjab such as:

(i) A Central Sheep Breeding Farm has been established at Hissar for production and distribution of exotic cross breed rams.

(ii) Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as the National Ram/Buck Production Programme and Programme for Rabbit Development are being implemented by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

(iii) Through the Central Wool Development Board 7 districts of Punjab have been covered under the Integrated Sheep and Wool Development Project in Collaboration with the State Government.

(iv) Central Wool Development Board has set up an Industrial Service Centre at Amritsar for providing facilities for testing of wool, yarn and fabrics.

(v) Import duty on the raw material used in the woollen apparel industry has been reduced from 25% to 20%. Excise duty on carded wool, wool tops and woollen yarn has also been reduced.

(d) and (e) In the last three years approximately Rs. 69.66 lakhs has been given to the State Government for promotion of the woollen sector. The State Government would continue to get assistance for the various Centrally Sponsored Schemes and other schemes being implemented by the Central Government during the 9th Five Year Plan.

Safeguarding of Interest Genuine Garment Exporters

1687. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that garment quota speculators and manipulators have cornered the maximum quota and taken the genuine exporters at ransom; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take to safeguard the interest of genuine exporters and by whom it is proposed to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) The Garments Export Entitlement Policy stipulates that the annual levels would be distributed in various systems viz. Past Performance Entitlement (PPE), Non-quota Exporters' Entitlement (NQE), New Investors' Entitlement (NIE) and First Come First Served (FCFS) Entitlement. This ensures that established exporters as well as new-comers get a fair chance to apply for quots. In the PPE & the NQE systems, the quotas are transferable so that exporters who have quotas but do not have orders can transfer such entitlements to other exporters who have orders but do not have quotas. In the FCFS system, price is the criterion for allotment whereas in the other systems exporters have the right to export against their quotas at any prices as obtained by them from their buyers.